

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-13 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 11, 12, and 13 to clarify the features set forth therein. No new matter is added. Entry and consideration of this amendment are respectfully requested.

I. Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner withdrew the previous grounds for rejecting the claims. The Examiner, however, found new grounds for rejecting the claims. Specifically, claims 1-9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of a newly found reference.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 9, and 11-13¹ stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,710,634 to Kuriyama et al. (hereinafter "Kuriyama") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,859,711 to Barry et al. (hereinafter "Barry"). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection at least in view of the following exemplary comments.

Of the rejected claims, only claims 1 and 11-13 are independent. This response initially focuses on claim 1. Independent claim 1 *inter alia* recites: "wherein a first supply direction along which the first medium supply section supplies the recording medium with respect to the first print head is the same as a second supply direction along which the second medium supply section supplies the recording medium with respect to the second print head, wherein the recording apparatus further comprises a carriage that moves in a moving direction intersecting the first supply direction and the second supply direction, and wherein both the first print head

¹ Applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner's notation of claims 1-7, 9-11, and 13 appears to be in error and claims 1-7, 9, and 11-13 were intended.

and the second print head are equipped on the carriage.” The Examiner acknowledges that Kuriyama does not disclose the two different print heads (*see* page 2 of the Office Action). The Examiner, however, alleges that Barry cures this deficiency. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that since each print engine has its own imaging device 150, Barry cures this deficiency (*see* pages 2-3 of the Office Action). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Barry discloses three print engine modules which include three print engines 136, 138 and 140, all stacked one on top of the other. Each of the engines 136-140 is a multi-pass engine and includes a transfer drum 142 and a photoconductor drum 144. The photoconductor drum 144 rotates in a counterclockwise direction and is pressed against the transfer drum 142 to form a nip 146 therebetween. The photoconductor drum 144 is operable to have the surface thereof charged with a corona 148 and then an imaging device 150 is provided for generating a latent image on the charged surface of the photoconductor drum 144 (Fig. 4; col. 6, lines 8 to 29).

In Barry, however, the imaging device of each of the print engines is not equipped on a single carriage. That is, Barry does not disclose multiple imaging devices 150 on the carriage. In short, Barry does not disclose or suggest having the first and second print heads on the carriage. Barry does not cure the deficient disclosure of Kuriyama. For at least these exemplary reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Kuriyama in view of Barry. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-7, 9, and 10.

Independent claims 11-13 recite features similar to, although not necessarily coextensive with, the features argued above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, arguments presented with respect to claim 1 are respectfully submitted to apply with equal force here. For at least

substantially analogous exemplary reasons, therefore, independent claims 11-13 are patentable over Kuriyama in view of Barry.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kuriyama in combination with Barry and Botten et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2003/0098984, hereinafter Botten). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection at least in view of the following exemplary comments.

Claim 8 depends on claim 1. Applicant has already demonstrated that Kuriyama and Barry do not meet all the requirements of independent claim 1. Botten is relied upon only for its alleged disclosure of a blocking force blocking section. Clearly, Botten does not compensate for the above-identified deficiencies of Kuriyama and Barry. Together, the combined teachings of these references would not have (and could not have) led the artisan of ordinary skill to have achieved the subject matter of claim 1. Since claim 8 depends on claim 1, it is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


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